

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-10

ACDA-05 H-02 /063 W

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O 110405Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 7442

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CANAL ZONE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 2694

STATE PASS TO DIA AND JCS

E.O.11652; GDS

TAGS: MILI, NU

SUBJECT REQUEST FOR AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

1. UPON HIS RETURN TO NICARAGUA I MET WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA AT HIS REQUEST AT THE AIRPORT AT WHICH TIME HE OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN LOCATING WHAT HE HAS BEEN ADVISED BY, IN HIS OPINION, VERY RELIABLE INFORMANTS AS TWO BOATS ALLEGEDLY BRINGING ARMS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO NICARAGUA APPARENTLY FROM CUBA.

2. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SUCH A REQUEST HWS BEEN MADE BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA TO MY KNOWLEDGE AND I AM CONVINCED THAT THE CLOSE, FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NICARAGUA FULLY JUSTIFIES THIS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WHICH, IN MY OPINION SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF UNARMED AERIAL SURVEILLANCE.

3. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE HARD INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US CONCERNING THESE SHIPS IS MINIMAL BUT THAT VERY FACT ENHANCES, IN MY VIEW, THE NECESSITY FOR THE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE. SOMOZA TOLD ME THAT HE HAS INFORMATION WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE RELIABLE THAT THE TWO BOATS ARE COMING FROM CUBA AND ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY THAT COUNTRY. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, HE IS

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CONVINCED OF THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. HEIGHTENING HIS CON-

VICTION IS THE FACT THAT HE LEARNED TODAY FROM CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR OF HONDURAS THAT IN RECENT MONTHS HONDURAS HAS INTERCEPTED AND APPARENTLY BOARDED UP TO 15 ARMED CUBAN BOATS IN HONDURAN WATERS.

4. SOMOZA HAS ALSO HAD INFORMATION WHICH HE CONSIDERS RELIABLE FROM SOURCES WITHIN THE FSLN THAT SUCH AN OPERATION HAS BEEN PLANNED. THE ONLY SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BOATS THEMSELVES IS THAT TWO ARE INVOLVED; ONE HEADING FOR NICARAGUA FROM THE NORTH-NORTHEAST TOWARD THE PUERTO CABEZAS AREA, AND ANOTHER FROM THE NORTH-NORTHEAST TOWARD THE SOUTTERN COAST OF NICARAGUA. THERE IS NO OTHER INFORMATION AT THIS TIME AVAILABLE AS TO OTHER IDENTIFYING CHARACTER-ISTICS.

5. NICARAGUA PUT ALL AVAILABLE C-47 AND CESSNA AIRCRAFT INTO THE SEARCH UPON RECEIPT OF THE INFORMATION, AND THIS REPRESENTS ALL OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT. ONE PATROL BOAT IS OPERATIONAL AND IS COMMITTED. SOMOZA ADVISES ME NICARAGUAN FORCES HAVE BEEN ALERTED AND, AS WILL BE SEEN ABOVE, AVAILABLE RESOURCES ARE COMMITTED TO SEARCH AND MINIMAL U.S. ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED.

6. THIS MINIMUM ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, IS, I BELIEVE, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THOROUGHLY JUSTIFIED AND, IN VIEW OF OFFICIAL REQUEST, SHOULD BE HONORED. DATT AND MILGROUP CONCUR FULLY IN THIS ASSISTANCE.

SHELTON

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